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**HIGH 70**  
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See expanded weather on Page 2


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PAVESTONE

## A day in the park



Pampa News photo by MARILYN POWERS  
Harley Renee Ellwanger is all smiles as her grandmother, Cheryl Ellwanger, helps her enjoy a swing set at Recreation Park on a recent sunny day. The pleasant days this week will give way to windy conditions and possible rain Saturday.

## 25 years ago, Pampa's economy was struggling

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

Pampa has been experiencing a growing economy the past few years thanks in part to the oil boom. The town seems to have new life, which can be seen by new businesses popping up all over town.

Many people are moving to Pampa which has caused a shortage of houses, so new homes are being built. Those residents who have lived here for many years may recall the opposite of this growth only 25 years ago in 1982, when Pampa's economy was struggling due to the oil bust.

According to Pampa News articles compiled by librarian John Mead, the year started off by residents calling for stricter animal control laws after a child was attacked by dogs and had to undergo a series of rabies shots.

In April, the city's water got a little too fragrant so the city started adding well water to that being piped in from Lake Meredith. After the reservoir was cleaned up, the city went back to straight lake water in June.

Ingersoll - Rand was having problems with slumping sales for oil field equipment. They had purchased the company from Cabot Corporation only two years earlier for \$130 million in cash and

employed 1,222 people. But they had to lay off 155 workers in June because, according to their reports, one third of the oil rigs had shut down since the first of that year.

Bad weather the same month caused problems for some. On June 24, hail stones the size of tennis balls hit Pampa, reportedly breaking bricks.

In July, the Gunn Brothers Trading Stamps store decided to close its doors. Many shoppers were sorry to see them go, but they did enjoy the going-out-of-business sale.

Halliburton was also experiencing slower business and had to lay off 22 people in July.

August was another bad month for Ingersoll - Rand. They had to lay off an additional 200 people, which affected many of the residents and their families.

Animals were in the news again. A prairie dog town, west of the city, was wiped out by bubonic plague. Residents were warned to watch their dogs and cats. Luckily, the disease did not infiltrate the town and Pampa was spared.

September was another difficult month. Due to the economy, Celanese had to lay off 11 people and Ingersoll - Rand had to let an

See ECONOMY, Page 3



Pampa News Photos by LACI KENNEDY  
Enjoying a cup of joe and conversation at Sacred Grounds Coffee Studio are, from left, Julie O'Rear, Lisa Powell and Connie Sue Ellis. At right, Sacred Grounds Coffee Studio owners Brad and Pamela Mathis prepare drinks for customers.



## Store offers specialty coffee and recording studio

By KERRI SMITH  
Staff Writer

The specialty coffee and cappuccino craze is in full swing in Pampa. Sacred Grounds Coffee Studio is open six days a week to assist those who want to satisfy their palate.

They offer a variety of drinks and pastries and also a commercial recording studio for those who want to record a CD of their very own.

Owned by Brad and Pamela Mathis, the coffee studio offers 50 flavors of coffee, tea, Italian sodas, cappuccino (frozen and hot), espresso, low-fat and sugar free

drinks and fruit smoothies made with green tea containing ginkgo biloba and ginseng with 124 calories per serving. All of the drinks are made with purified water. Cinnamon rolls and muffins are also available for a snack.

A drive-through window is available on the north side of the building and call-in orders are accepted. Inside, free wireless Internet is available.

In the near future, they hope that patrons can sit inside and watch people or bands record music while they enjoy their drinks.

Brad, who is a lifelong Pampa resident, and Pamela, who lived near Lubbock, met online in a Texas chatroom. They dated, across the miles, for about 3 1/2 years until they married in 2005. They both were involved in music since Pamela worked at Digital Base Productions and Brad was a member of the local country and classic rock band Fencewalker.

They decided they wanted to open a recording studio and thought infusing Pamela's love of coffee and "pulling" espresso would be a great idea for a unique experience.

Pamela always liked coffee, but after a trip to Italy a few years ago, that love really grew.

"I tortured my family and friends while learning and perfecting the art of pulling espresso," Pamela said. "I had a little espresso machine and kept upgrading to larger machines. I made everyone drink espresso until I felt I'd mastered the art of making a great cup."

Brad worked at the local water treatment plant for 22 years until he quit to help Pamela get their busi-

See COFFEE, Page 3

## 78th Annual Chamber of Commerce Banquet and 2006 Citizen of the Year Award

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## Economy

Continued from Page 1

additional 120 people go. The unemployment in Gray County soared to 8 percent that year with all of the layoffs.

Residents did enjoy a new Labor Day festival in Central Park. This was the first year for Chautauqua, which was sponsored by the Pampa Fine Arts Association. People enjoyed the food, arts and crafts and children's activities as well as getting to mingle with friends.

After such a hard year, Pampans were excited to see the economy pick up the following year. In 1983, the National Bank of Commerce opened as the city's third bank. And a new retail era was beginning in Pampa with the construction of a new Wal-Mart.

## Coffee

Continued from Page 1

ness started. Even their children, Dustin, Samara and Kathlyn help out of the store. They wanted to put their shop on the north side of town so they were excited to find a place in Plaza 21, 2145-B N. Hobart.

"We wanted to find a place with a drive-up window," Brad said. "We wanted to make it convenient for our customers and give them the opportunity to come in and sit while they

drink or just drive by and grab a quick drink."

After the business was up and running, Brad started a new job as manager of Tarpley Music. He is also busy with the band Fencewalker. He said the band has been together about 20 years, but he's only been a part of it for about eight years.

"I really enjoy performing with the band," Brad said. "We play at Good Times in Borger about once a month and also play at weddings and benefits. We are playing at the White Deer Land Museum benefit

at the M.K. Brown Auditorium on March 17."

Sacred Grounds Coffee Studio is currently open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday. The recording studio is available by appointment.

"We hope to have people recording music while the patrons sit inside and enjoy their drinks," Pam said. "And if the musicians agree to it, we want to pipe in the music and allow the patrons to watch through a large window."

For more information call Pam at 662-9118.

## Record

Continued from Page 2

Pampa Police Department reported the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

Three traffic stops were made.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 2400 block of Charles.

Accidents were reported in the 700 block of North Hobart, the 900 block of Christine, the 400 block of Russell, the 1400 block of North Hobart and at the police department lobby.

A traffic complaint was reported in the 200 block of Tyng.

A suspicious vehicle was reported in the 1600 block of East Highway 60 and the 600 block of Wynne.

Calls concerning animals were received from the 1000 block of Darby, the 900 block of South Faulkner, the 1300 block of Charles, the 300 block of Perry, the 500 block of North Zimmers, the 600 block of South Cuyler, the 100 block of South Sumner, the 1900 block of North Banks, the 500 block of Starkweather and one undisclosed location.

Police escorts were provided in the 700 block of Browning, the 600 block of Ward and the 200 block of West.

A welfare check was made in the 1100 block of North Hobart.

Agency assistance was provided in the 1700 block of Hamilton.

A suspicious person was reported in the 600 block of North Wells and the 1300 block of West Alcock.

Identity theft was reported in the 2200 block of Charles.

Found property was reported in the 900 block of Christine.

Violation of a protective order was reported in the 1200 block of Williston.

Warrant service was attempted at one location.

Two alarms were reported.

A narcotics violation was reported near the intersection of Cook and Russell.

Criminal trespass was reported in the 100 block of Russell.

Disorderly conduct in the

form of loud and profane language was reported in the 500 block of North Nelson and the 700 block of Naida.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Hazel, the 700 block of Russell, the 900 block of Mary Ellen and the 400 block of Warren where a rear tail light estimated at \$500 was broken out.

The following criminal mischief calls concerning broken windshields in vehicles were received from: the 900 block of Christine valued at \$500, the 900 block of Christine valued at \$1,200 and in the police department lobby valued at \$300.

The following criminal mischief calls concerning broken door windows in vehicles were received from the 700 block of East Francis valued at \$305, the 700 block of East Francis valued at \$250 and in the 800 block of East Kingsmill with no value listed.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 300 block of Warren where a vehicle mirror valued at \$100 was broken.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 500 block of Wynne where a vehicle windshield was shattered and the driver's side mirror broken with an estimated value of \$600.

Criminal mischief was reported in the 700 block of Frost where a vehicle windshield was shattered, the driver's side mirror broken off and the inside panel on the driver's side door was damaged. Estimated value was \$850.

Assault with no injuries was reported in the 600 block of North Wells.

Assault causing bodily injury was reported in the 111 block of East Harvester.

Burglary was reported in the 600 block of North Wells, the 1500 block of Williston and in the 1100 block of Foster where a Nintendo Wii swing golf, two memory cards, a DVD player and three RCA speakers were taken with an estimated total value of \$455.

Theft was reported in the 1400 block of North Banks where a 16-foot tandem axle trailer was stolen valued at \$2,000.

A 1983 Ford van was reported stolen and later found burned in the 600 block of Wynne. Arson is suspected. Damage was estimated at \$4,000.

Pampa Fire Department reported the following calls for the 24-hour period ending at 7 a.m. today.

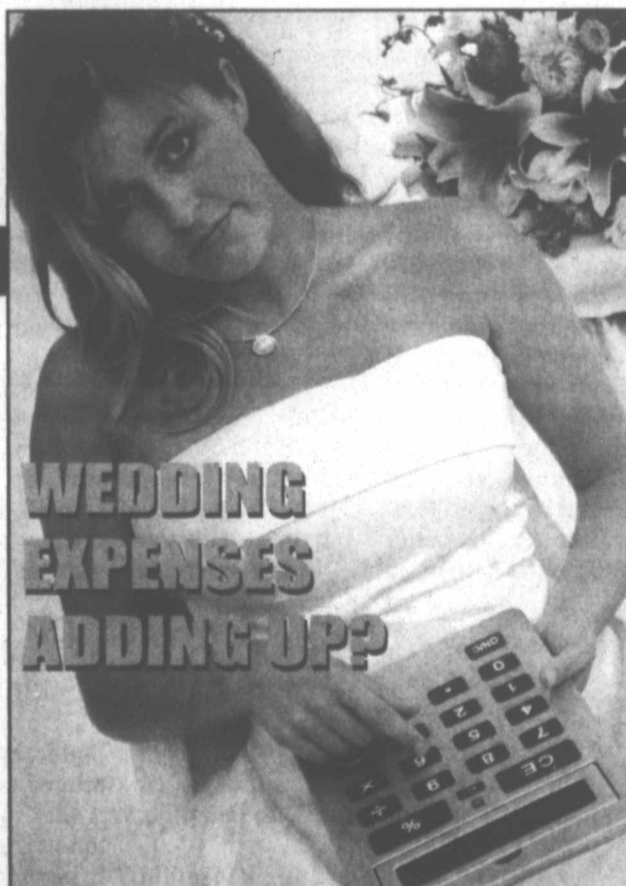
Wednesday, Feb. 21

11:24 a.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1500 block of North Faulkner on a medical assist.

12:25 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the intersection of Christine and Virginia on a vehicle accident.

5:26 p.m. — One unit and three personnel responded to the 1200 block of East Kingsmill on a carbon monoxide investigation.

10:18 p.m. — Four units and eight personnel responded to the 500 block of North Nelson on a grease fire.



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## Utility customers get mega bills

WEATHERFORD, Texas (AP) — Perhaps his \$24 billion electric bill will teach Richard Redden to turn down the thermostat a bit.

Redden and more than 1,300 Weatherford utility customers this week received billion-dollar electric bills marked as late notices. The mega-charges were attributed to a printing error.

Irving-based DataProse, which prints customer bills for Weatherford Electric, said the company was embarrassed by the error.



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# Viewpoints

## Land of charity: Americans excel at giving

Is not America an amazing place? Where else but the good ol' U.S. of A. can you find such a collection — such a variety — of innovative, thoughtful, caring individuals?

Land of the intrepid, the gracious, the generous — in America, givers are abundant and their methods of giving ample and creative.

Here in Texas, for example, a coalition of hunters, meat processors and charities have banded together to feed the needy. "Hunters for the Hungry" is a program

that uses the fruit of hunters to provide sustenance for the less fortunate in the state.

Though venison is the primary target of the program, organizers are working to include additional kills such as hogs, geese, ducks and fish, according to information at Hunters for the Hungry Web site.

The difficulty, the Web site says, is finding proper processors to participate in preparing meat from other types of game.

"(We have not yet devel-

oped a system to place game donations in large quantity other than venison," the Web News Editor site states.

**Skyla Bryant**

Web News Editor

"Due to variables in processing other animals, venison is the only standard we have set up with participating processors."

Hogs are especially problematic, the Web site says, because the swine must be transported live to the pro-

cessing plant. The hogs must pass an inspector's muster before slaughter can begin.

Once they have bagged their deer, participating Texas hunters must follow and maintain all the legal guidelines set forth by the state. The tagged animal may then be taken to processors involved in the program. A list is available

at Hunters for the Hungry Web site.

The hunters pay a fee to the processor, usually less than \$30. The meat is then distributed through local outreach programs.

Hunters for the Hungry is operated by Texas Association of Community Action Agencies, Inc. The association oversees the recruitment of necessary processors; the raising of funds to offset processing fees; drums up contributions of wild game; AND promotes the program.

Food banks and other charitable food sources can learn more about Hunters for the Hungry by calling the association at 1-800-992-9767, ext. 506. Hunters can find out more by calling the same number or visiting the Web site ([www.taca.org/hunters.htm](http://www.taca.org/hunters.htm))

Approved charities are listed with processors in their area. The cost of processing is shared three ways — by the association, the processor and the hunter.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Feb. 22, the 53rd day of 2007. There are 312 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Feb. 22, 1732, the first president of the United States, George Washington, was born at his parents' plantation in the Virginia Colony.

On this date:

In 1819, Spain agreed to cede Florida to the U.S. under the Adams-Onís Treaty.

In 1857, Robert Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts, was born in London.

In 1857, German physicist Heinrich Hertz, the discoverer of radio waves for whom the unit of frequency is named, was born in Hamburg.

In 1889, President Grover Cleveland signed an omnibus bill to admit the Dakotas, Montana and Washington state to the Union.

In 1892, "Lady Windermere's Fan" by Oscar Wilde was first performed, at London's St. James's Theater.

In 1935, it became illegal for airplanes to fly over

the White House.

In 1967, more than 25,000 U.S. and South Vietnamese troops launched Operation Junction City, aimed at smashing a Vietcong stronghold near the Cambodian border.

In 1973, the U.S. and Communist China agreed to establish liaison offices.

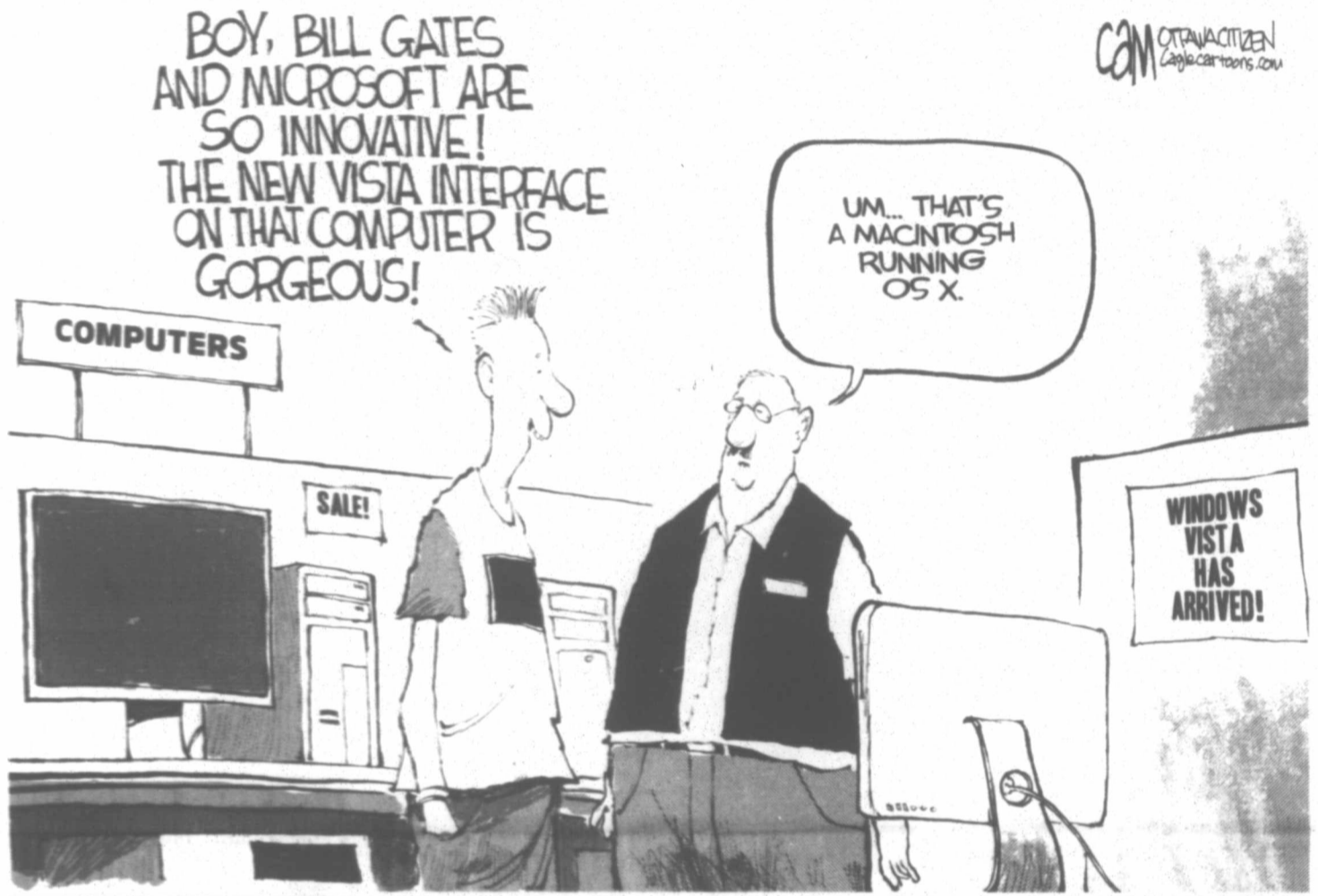
In 1980, the U.S. Olympic hockey team upset the Soviets at Lake Placid, N.Y., 4-3. (The U.S. team went on to win the gold medal.)

In 1987, pop artist Andy Warhol died at a New York City hospital at age 58; talk-show host David Susskind was found dead in his Manhattan hotel suite; he was 66.

Ten years ago: Cutbacks began under new welfare law limiting childless adults, under age 50 and able to work, to three months of food stamps in any three-year period. Albert Shanker, the leader of the American Federation of Teachers who championed public school reforms, died in New York at age 68.

Five years ago: Police in San Diego arrested David Westerfield in connection with the disappearance of 7-year-old Danielle van Dam. (Westerfield was later sentenced to death for Danielle's murder.) The Angolan army and government announced the killing of UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi. Cartoon animator Chuck Jones died in Newport Beach, Calif., at age 89.

One year ago: Insurgents destroyed the golden dome of one of Iraq's holiest Shiite shrines, the Askariya mosque in Samarra, setting off an unprecedented spasm of sectarian violence. Thieves stole \$96 million from a Bank of England cash depot 30 miles southeast of London in Britain's largest cash robbery. Eight workers at a Nebraska meatpacking plant came forward to claim a \$365 million Powerball jackpot.



## Everything you need to know about viruses, II

Welcome back to Viruses 101. Last week we discussed four of the five types of viruses: the file infector, stealth virus, trojan horse, and worms.

However, the most insidious virus in the wild today is the polymorphic virus. As a preface, we need to talk about how anti-virus software works. Viruses are simple programs and programs are simply "sets of instructions." When a virus replicates or copies itself, it is simply copying its "set of instructions" somewhere else. Anti-virus software can search all of your programs for copies of these instructions. If it finds them, it can remove them. Of course, in order for your anti-virus software to work, it must KNOW about the virus to begin with. Obviously, newer viruses that your software doesn't know about will evade the search.

Polymorphic viruses are particularly sneaky because every time they copy themselves, they can actually CHANGE their instructions, making them impervious to

virus searches. Don't get me wrong, they can be found (sort of). Whenever a virus infects another program, what happens to the SIZE of the program? It grows! Your programs should never just "grow" on their own. Your data may grow and shrink, but programs are static in their size, unless you upgrade them.

Good anti-virus software, when first installed, will make a list of all of your programs and their sizes. Whenever you run your anti-virus software from then on, it will compare your programs to that list. If any of them have "suddenly grown," the software will alert you and ask if you have recently upgraded them. If not, the anti-virus software will erase the infected program (taking the virus with it). At this point, you will have to re-install the original program. But, hey, it's better to lose one program than an

entire hard disk!

So, which anti-virus software is best? While I don't have a favorite, two stand out as good choices: McAfee and Norton. Each can search for the five virus types I've mentioned. Buying and using one of these products is not enough, though.

Every day, new viruses are discovered. You MUST keep your anti-virus program updated with the newest virus lists. The two programs I mentioned can do this quite simply through easy Internet updates. For more information on them (and to download trial versions), check out their Web sites:

<http://www.mcafee.com> and <http://www.norton.com>.

If money is an issue, check out AVG Home Edition (<http://free.grisoft.com>). It seems to work just as well, but doesn't cost you a penny.

Most of today's viruses are built on the foundation of an older virus named Happy99. While you won't see this little bug much anymore, it is still the template for most of today's nasty viruses. This bizarre little virus doesn't do any real damage to your system. However, it can be annoying. Here's how it works:

One day you receive an e-mail message from a friend. At the bottom of the message, you notice a little attachment called, "happy99.exe." You think to yourself, "Hmmm, must be one of those animated greeting cards!" So, you double-click on it. And sure enough, you see a pretty little display of fireworks with the message, "Happy 1999!"

What you don't notice, however, is that the program has just infected your e-mail program. Now, every time you SEND a piece of e-mail, the virus automatically attaches itself to the message. You are now unwittingly sending the virus to all of your friends! And if they

See VIRUSES, Page 5

**Eric Spellmann**  
Columnist



## Texas Thoughts

By The Associated Press

A sample of editorial opinion around Texas:

■ **Feb. 10**  
San Antonio Express-News on U.S. models' health:

The international fashion industry should be lauded for its stance on thinness. Last year, Spain's principal fashion show banned excessively thin models from its runway, saying it promotes an unhealthy image.

Italy followed suit, and the Spanish government has now reached an agreement with major designers to end window displays that feature anything smaller than U.S. size 8 clothing (European size 38).

The Council of Fashion Designers of America has joined in, although its recently issued guidelines are flaccid in comparison.

They include ceasing late-night photo shoots for younger models, providing healthier eating options backstage, ensuring a smoke-free environment and requiring models with eating disorders to seek professional help.

The CFDA is not placing restrictions on models based on their weight or body mass index, as Spain has done.

It's a start, but American designers should do more.

Unfortunately, it took the death of Brazilian model Ana Carolina Reston last year to spur action. The 21-year-old was 5-foot-8 and weighed 88

pounds when she died from anorexia-related complications.

Her story, while shocking, isn't unique. And those who don't die can experience a host of health problems.

Eating disorders are pernicious. They affect the body and mind, as well as family members and friends. And it's not just starving oneself that's a problem.

According to a Harvard Medical School report released early this month, binge eating and bulimia are more common than anorexia.

It's a shame society places so much value on the way women look. The least we can do is keep them alive and healthy.

**THE PAMPA NEWS**  
403 W. Atchison • Pampa, TX 79065  
806-669-2525 • 800-687-3348  
Fax: 806-669-2520  
email: [editor@thepampanews.com](mailto:editor@thepampanews.com)

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**Heard Jones**

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**Viruses**

Continued from Page 4

double-click on it, guess what? They're infected!

I received this virus 20 times in the first few weeks. Each time, I replied back to the sender informing them of the infection. Please note, that I have never been infected with the virus. Receiving it does not automatically mean your system is infected. Only if you double-click on it do you infect your system.

So, what should do if you receive a Happy99-like virus from a friend? Reply to the message, explaining that their system is infected, and then delete the message.

The Happy99 virus issue does bring up a good point, though. Quite a few hoaxes are going around the Internet these days.

Many of them revolve around viruses. For instance, if you've been on the Internet for very long, no doubt, you've received a message claiming to be from someone at Microsoft or IBM. The message warns you not to open a message with the words, "Join the Crew" in the subject. If you do, the message warns, your hard drive will be erased! Hoax!

Variations of this message have made it around the Net. Some of the popular ones warn of the following subjects: "Budweiser Frogs," "Naughty Robot," "Good Times," "Win a Vacation," and "Stand up for Jesus!" If a well-meaning friend sends you one of these jokes, please tell them it is a hoax.

Computer viruses are not something to fear. Despite how I may have described them, THEY ARE NOT ALIVE! Viruses are simply programs, created by cretins with too much time on their hands.

I'll see you in Cyberspace!

**Two senators vow to fight proposed farm cuts**

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Two members of the U.S. Senate's agriculture committee vow to fight proposed cuts in farm subsidies, despite resistance from urban lawmakers and other countries.

"The fact is, there are fewer and fewer members of Congress representing rural states or districts that depend on an agriculturally based economy, not to mention fewer and fewer members of Congress that actually have a direct relationship with production agriculture," said Arkansas Sen. Blanche Lincoln.

Lincoln, a farmer's daughter, and Georgia Sen. Saxby Chambliss, whose son-in-law is a farmer, spoke Wednesday at a farm bill forum spon-

sored by the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service.

Chambliss, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry Committee, said the renewal of the farm bill might entail a battle with the Bush administration, but that Congress ultimately will decide what to fund.

The current farm bill, written in 2002, expires Sept. 30.

A proposal released last month by U.S. Agriculture Secretary Mike Johanns would cut agriculture spending by \$18 billion over the next five years.

The Bush administration's plan would cost \$87.3 billion over the next five years, not counting food stamps and other nutrition programs,

compared to \$105 billion spent on farm programs over the past five years.

Most payments go to growers of five major crops — corn, soybeans, wheat, rice and cotton.

Lincoln said many nations oppose subsidies for U.S. farmers, arguing that they make trade between countries unfair. Lincoln said the U.S. market is open to foreign agricultural goods, but that "changes must occur in places other than just the United States."

The U.S. needs to deal with trade issues with foreign countries before cutting subsidies to farmers, Lincoln said. Otherwise, the U.S. would have no leverage in trade negotiations, she said.

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**Diversified Lenders can turn your accounts into cash**

Smart business owners throughout West Texas are finding that Smart Money, one of the many services available from Diversified Lenders, Inc., enables them to convert their accounts receivable into immediate cash through a process known as "factoring."

"Many people don't know what factoring is," says Don Roberts, President, in the company's Lubbock offices at 6625 W. 19th St., Suite 114. "Companies simply don't realize that they can sell us their accounts receivable on a monthly basis and get immediate working capital."

Just as important, Smart Money gives businesses access to complete "backroom" services. Backroom services include:

- Billing
- Collections
- eFactor Technology
- Accounts receivable management
- Management reports
- Customer credit evaluations
- Next day funding

"Selling us their accounts receivable enables companies to grow their businesses not only by making capital readily available, but by solving the cash flow problems created by customers who don't always pay immediately," says Account Manager Cole Roberts. "They can now afford to go after that potential new customer who's delayed payment history had before made them unavailable."

Often, Cole adds, the increased availability of capital enables Diversified's clients to make even more money by taking advantage of substantial "early-pay" discounts available from their vendors.

Funds can be directly deposited to customers' designated bank accounts. Smart Money clients can also take advantage of eFactor, an online service that gives clients access to their accounts, view transaction status, submit invoices, manage reports and much more.

"eFactor allows our clients to bring our 'back-

room' into their office," says Operations Manager Glendon Paulk. "Clients can log on and access their accounts anytime, anywhere."

Diversified Lenders also receives client referrals from many banks throughout the West Texas area.

"We work hand-in-hand with the banks," Don explains. "Our factoring services enable us to consider a company's accounts receivable and fund based on that."

If you've been turned down by a bank, Diversified Lenders encourages you to call them for more information.

"We get a lot of referrals from banks when additional funding is needed, or they are not able to service a client," he explains.

Smart Money from Diversified Lenders, Inc. is obviously much more than just another business loan program. It's a way to grow the business in ways previously unavailable to many businesses. When coupled with the factoring division's complete "backroom" services menu, Diversified Lenders, Inc. provides complete cash flow management.

"We provide people with peace-of-mind," Don says. "Many small business owners find that with us, they can eliminate the need to work the business by day and handle invoicing, billing, collections, etc. at night."

In its 19th year in business, Diversified Lenders has the management skill, financial resources, industry expertise and product knowledge to serve the needs of their clients. Whether a business, municipality, or bank, you will find that Diversified Lenders has a product to fit your needs.

For more information, please contact Cole Roberts or any of the professionals at Diversified Lenders, Inc at (806) 795-7782 or toll free (800) 288-3024, or visit their Web site at [www.diversifiedlenders.com](http://www.diversifiedlenders.com). You can also e-mail Cole at [croberts@diversifiedlenders.com](mailto:croberts@diversifiedlenders.com).

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COURTESY PHOTO

## 'Patron of the Year'

Sue Abbott, left, congratulates Pampa Fine Arts Association's 2007 "Patron of the Year" Ruth Barrett recently.

## Soldier pleads guilty, avoids death penalty

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP) — A U.S. soldier broke down in tears in court as he described his role in the gang rape and slaying of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and the killing of her family last year.

Paul E. Cortez, 24, wept Wednesday as he became the second U.S. soldier to plead guilty to charges in a case considered among the worst atrocities by U.S. military personnel in Iraq.

By pleading guilty to rape and four counts of felony murder, Cortez was spared the possibility of a death sentence and must testify against the three other soldiers charged in the case.

Under terms of the agreement, Cortez will be sentenced to life in prison, plus reduction in rank and a dishonorable discharge. Whether he is eligible for parole will be decided at sentencing, set for today.

He said Wednesday he raped 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi in her family's home in Mahmoudiya last March, and that Spc. James Barker, 24, held her down.

*He said Wednesday he raped 14-year-old Abeer Qassim al-Janabi in her family's home in Mahmoudiya last March, and that Spc. James Barker, 24, held her down.*

*Cortez showed very little emotion during the rest of the trial and kept his eyes down unless addressing the judge or talking with his attorneys.*

"I lifted up her skirt and took off her stockings while Barker held her hands with his knees," he said before admitting that he raped the teenager as she screamed. "After I was done, myself and Barker switched spots."

Cortez offered no explanation for his involvement in the rape and murders, only saying that his intent was to rape the girl. The killing of the family was originally reported to be the work of insurgents.

Another soldier, former

Pfc. Steven D. Green, shot the girl's father, mother and younger sister in the bedroom, Cortez said. Green, who grew up in Midland, Texas, then raped the girl in front of Cortez and then shot her multiple times in the head, he said.

Cortez also testified that the soldiers attempted to burn the girl's body, burned their clothes and threw the murder weapon, an AK-47, into a canal in an attempt to get rid of evidence.

Later Wednesday, Cortez

was found not guilty of more serious charges of premeditated murder and conspiracy to premeditated murder after prosecutors failed to convince a judge that Cortez knew of what they said was Green's intent to murder the whole family.

Pfc. Jesse Spielman, 22, and Pfc. Bryan Howard, 19, await courts-martial in the case and Green, who was discharged from the military before being charged, will be prosecuted in a federal court. Barker pleaded guilty in November to rape and murder and was sentenced to 90 years in military prison.

Cortez showed very little emotion during the rest of the trial and kept his eyes down unless addressing the judge or talking with his attorneys.

He didn't look up when another soldier, Spc. Christopher Till, testified that Cortez told him about the killings in June.

## Vision tests proposed for senior motorists

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate transportation committee has approved a bill establishing increased scrutiny of older drivers, including a vision test at age 79 and the possibility of driving tests starting at age 85.

The bill filed by Sen. John Carona, R-Dallas, would also require drivers to renew their licenses every two years after they turn 85. The fee would be \$10, and officers would have the discretion to order a driving test as well.

Carona said statistical evidence supports the need for the bill, which the committee passed unanimously on Wednesday.

"Older drivers, per mile driven, have far more accidents than any other classification of driver," said Carona, chairman of the transportation committee. "While there will be senior citizens who have reservations about this bill, all we're doing is making them come in and have a vision test at 79. And that will be

good for six years."

The bill was placed on the Senate's uncontested calendar, which means the full Senate will vote on it without a debate unless a senator objects.

Also Wednesday, the House Law Enforcement Committee passed a similar companion bill. The House version sets a required vision test for drivers renewing their licenses at age 90.

If both bills pass, a compromise would be forged between the House and Senate versions.

The proposal has faced little opposition, but AARP-Texas spokesman Rafael Ayuso cautioned against rules that discriminate against older people. The group did not testify against the bill.

"Research shows that younger drivers have much higher accident rates than older drivers, and to some extent, these efforts (to pass legislation) can be seen as using older people as an easy target," Ayuso said.

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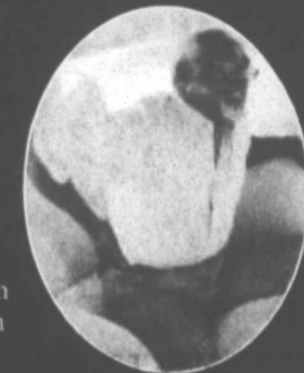
If you have had any type of mishap, ever so severe or slight—lifted something awkwardly, tripped, fallen, twisted or strained, you might have upset the structural balance of your body.

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Honoring The Volunteers Who Rose To The Occasion

# Dear Abby...

By Pauline & Jeanne Phillips

**DEAR ABBY:** I loved your response to "Wants to Reach Out in Boulder" (Jan. 8), who asked what to say to someone with a terminal illness. When my mother was diagnosed with terminal cancer, many of her friends and family disappeared, and Mom felt sad and abandoned by the people she loved. The few that did make an attempt to come around would often burst into tears, which was upsetting for her.

**Rule 1:** When you visit someone who is terminally ill, please keep your emotions in check and keep it light. What Mom appreciated most was laughter.

**Rule 2:** References to the person "being in heaven soon" are also not particularly welcome, unless you know the person well enough to know he or she shares your religious beliefs.

**Rule 3:** When death is imminent, gifts of food might not be appreciated, and large floral arrangements can actually be frightening.

**Rule 4:** If possible, and you can deal with it, try to do something helpful. One friend of Mother's who was a former nurse would rub lotion on her hands, wash her face, etc. Another would read to her every day -- light reading only, please!

**Rule 5:** When in doubt, the best thing to do is MAKE THAT VISIT. -- **HEATHER IN BUENA VISTA, COLO.**

**DEAR HEATHER:** Thank you for your helpful suggestions. Although end-of-life issues can be hard to read about, let alone difficult to deal with, many readers offered to share personal experiences. Read on:

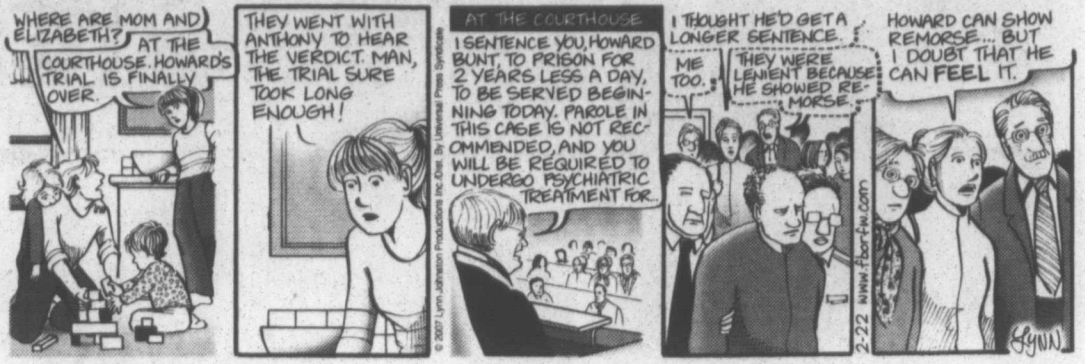
**DEAR ABBY:** Some of my mother's most cherished last days were spent with friends who dropped by to visit. They brought stories about work, other friends and current events, and once beyond the "I'm sorry you're sick" sentiment, found ways to have

normal conversations. The most cherished thing you can bring is your friendship, but calling ahead to see if there's anything the patient or caregiver needs would also be appreciated. My sisters and I will be forever grateful to the wonderful friends who made our mother's last days special. -- **PROFOUNDLY GRATEFUL IN FORT COLLINS**

**DEAR ABBY:** In your response to "Wants to Reach Out," you said that hospice is not a place, but rather an at-home care program. That is not entirely correct. In addition to home care, there are hospice care facilities, and they provide a wonderful service to many families dealing with death. Our local facility has 12 rooms and daybeds in each one, so at least one of us was able to be with our father 24/7 during his final illness. Staff and volunteers were compassionate, gentle and professional. They were respectful to Dad and helped us in many ways. Our mother had hospice care at home 15 years ago, which helped us immeasurably, but the hospice care facility has taken the hospice concept to the next level and is worthy of all the positive attention that can be bestowed. The 12 rooms are "homier" than a hospital's, have cheery halls with beautiful memorials overlooking serene gardens, and open patios where pets can be brought. The wonderful hospice workers deserve our support for their ongoing ministry of kindness and comfort. -- **SUSAN L., BRIDGETON, N.C.**

**DEAR SUSAN:** Thank you for correcting me. In my zeal to praise the services of in-home hospice care workers, I did neglect to mention that hospice can also be a place where terminal patients can be cared for when hospital treatment is no longer going to heal them.

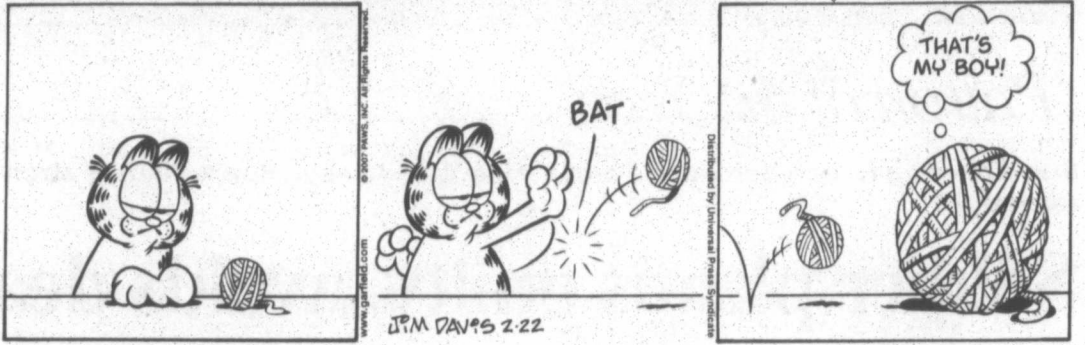
## For Better Or For Worse



## Zits



## Garfield



## Beetle Bailey



## Marvin



## Crossword Puzzle

### CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

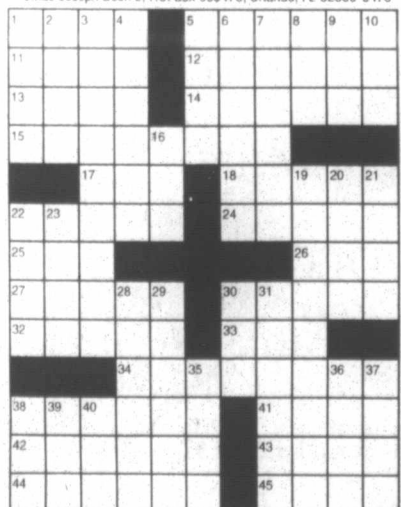
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**STOP SPROUT**  
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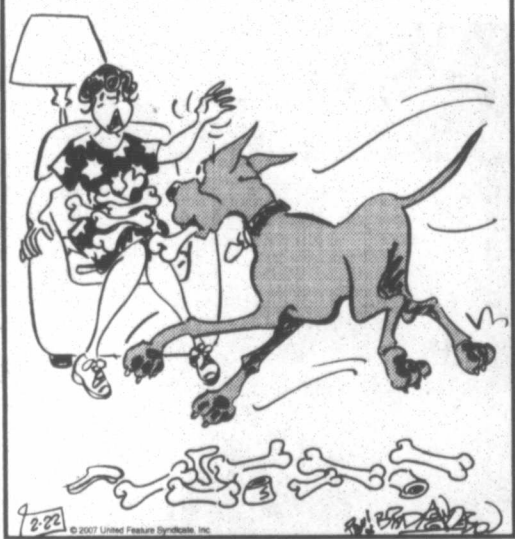
Yesterday's answer

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 27 40 Ump's  
 28 41 Believer"  
 29 42 Ump's  
 30 43 cry

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## Heat

another Wad show

HOUS... Shaquille... over at I... tears in h... and coul... Here we... Just w... NBA cha... were get... they we... major ble... dislocate... 102 los... Wednesd... The... injury is... was hurt... quarter... Houston... "I kne... ous whe... O'Neal... has been... of weeks... the wrot... popped d... a tough... what nec... back." With... healthy... back on... seemed... their es... surge in... the seas... Instea... as Wade... that he h... a wheel... quarter... "If it'... another... has play... Tracy... points to... the win... The... when R... nearly s... operatio... hip and... right kn...



# Sports Day

## Wimbledon agrees to equal prize money

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — After years of holding out against equal prize money, Wimbledon bowed to public pressure today and agreed to pay women players as much as the men at the world's most prestigious tennis tournament.

The All England Club announced at a news conference that it had decided to fall into line with other Grand Slam events and offer equal pay through all rounds at this year's tournament.

"Tennis is one of the few sports in which women and men compete in the same event at the same time," club chairman Tim Phillips said. "We believe our decision to offer equal prize money provides a boost for the game as a whole and recognizes the enormous contribution that women players make to the game and to Wimbledon."

"In short, good for tennis, good for women players and good for Wimbledon."

Last year, men's champion Roger Federer received \$1.170 million and women's winner Amelie Mauresmo got \$1.117 million.

The U.S. Open and Australian Open have paid equal prize money for years. The French Open paid the men's and women's champions the same for the first time last year, although the overall prize fund remained bigger for the men.

The WTA Tour has lobbied for years to get Wimbledon to drop its "Victorian-era view" and pay the women the same as the men.

## Heat take another hit as Wade injures shoulder

HOUSTON (AP) — Shaquille O'Neal looked over at Dwyane Wade, saw tears in his teammate's eyes and couldn't help but think: Here we go again.

Just when the defending NBA champion Miami Heat were getting back on track, they were dealt another major blow, losing Wade to a dislocated shoulder in a 112-102 loss to Houston on Wednesday night.

The extent of Wade's injury is unknown, but he was hurt late in the fourth quarter and taken to a Houston hospital.

"I knew it was pretty serious when I looked at him," O'Neal said. "His shoulder has been sore the last couple of weeks and he just got hit the wrong way. I think it popped out of place. But he's a tough kid, he's going to do what needs to be done to get back."

With O'Neal finally healthy and coach Pat Riley back on the bench, the Heat seemed poised to shake off their early struggles and surge in the second half of the season.

Instead the team watched as Wade was in so much pain that he had to be taken off in a wheelchair in the fourth quarter.

"If it's not one thing it's another," said O'Neal, who has played just 14 games.

Tracy McGrady scored 32 points to lead the Rockets to the win.

The Heat were 13-17 when Riley stepped down nearly seven weeks ago for operations to replace his left hip and repair cartilage in his right knee.

## Former drill instructor hopes to start water polo league

Just as you can always count on me to be interested in something fresh and new, something came across this week that really struck me.

A former Marine Corps drill instructor, Blake Villanueva came to me with an idea that I would really like to see work in this town.

Villanueva wants to start an adult recreational league of water polo, much like the softball and volleyball leagues we currently have.

"I would really like to get some teams up," Villanueva said, "the sport gives you a great cardio workout, and it's a lot of fun to play."

The concept of water polo, much like that of soccer, hockey or rugby is to get a ball from one side of a field, or a pool in this case, to the other and into a goal, which may either be

attached to the pool deck or free floating.

Teams typically consist of about 12 players, with seven in the pool at a time - one as the goalie and six playing the field.

**Jordan Reagan**

Sports Editor

else to keep them from shooting for a goal during a 35 second shot time.

There are several lines that offensive players may not cross when approaching the goal, much like in soccer.



In most leagues, the games are divided into four 7-minute quarters, and each team is given two time outs.

The game, while having several similarities with other games, is set-apart, mainly because of it's playing field.

Unlike hockey or rugby, water polo is less of a contact sport and more of one that requires stamina, like basketball.

"The workout you get is very unusual," Villanueva said, "It's more unlikely that you'll get injured playing water polo rather than soccer."

Villanueva got into water polo while he was in the military.

He retired in 2001 after serving for 20 years, and was recalled to Iraq in Feb. 2005.

At Alasad Airbase in Iraq, there was an indoor swimming pool where Villanueva played a game they called "Combat Water Polo."

"With 'Combat Water Polo,' we only had two rules. Don't splash the goalie and don't touch the sides," Villanueva said.

Of course it was a little more rough than conventional water polo, but upon returning in Oct. 2006, Villanueva wants to get a

recreational league started here in Pampa.

"I had fun playing the sport, and I think that a lot of other people would enjoy it as well," Villanueva said.

Water polo itself has grown in popularity in recent years, and there are several adult recreational leagues in Los Angeles, and even nearby communities such as Albuquerque, Roswell, and Tulsa have picked up on the sport.

While we wouldn't be the first to have a recreational water polo league, Pampa would be one of the first in the area to catch on to this fun sport.

That's the reason that Villanueva wants to get a league started here - because it would be fun.

But that's really what sports are all about, right?

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# Chamber

## Fund-raising fun



Courtesy photos

The Harlem Ambassadors visit Pampa recently for an exhibition of razzle-dazzle basketball against the mighty home team Pampa Thrashers. Above, the Thrashers are introduced to the highly partisan crowd. Below, some of the the Ambassadors and Thrashers get acquainted. This is one of many events that the chamber and the tourism committee hope to bring to Pampa for residents to enjoy and to help boost the economy for restaurants, hotels and other Pampa retailers.



We want to say thank you to all the sponsors that made the Harlem Ambassadors possible:

AmericInn Hotel & Suites; National Bank of Commerce; Great Plains Abstract & Title; Duncan, Fraser & Bridges; John Clark Construction, LLC; West Texas Landscape; Harvester Lanes; Brown, Graham & Co.; Texas Rose Steakhouse; United Supermarkets; Wal-Mart; and Frank's Foods.

Also a thank you to the Top Of Texan Goldcoats: Bob Marx, Richard Morris, Darville Orr, Ken Rheams, Roy Morriss, Paulette Hinkle, Gladys Vanderpool, Jack Reeve, Pat Montoya and Mike Keagy.

A special thank you to Dr. Jay Johnson for the use of the grill and to Stuart Smith and PISD for their help and support.

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78th Annual Chamber Banquet and 2006 Citizen of the Year is March 8th at 7 p.m. at M.K. Brown Auditorium. Tickets are \$25 a person. Tickets are available at the Chamber office at 200 N. Ballard. For more information call 669-3241. The theme this year is "It's a Year of New Things."

## Letter from the desk of the executive director

### Punxsutawney Phil

Well, it's official!

Punxsutawney Phil saw NO shadow this year. And that means an early spring. It's interesting that coincides with an early start to daylight-saving time – March 11 to be exact. How about that?

This looks to be a year full of firsts. We began the Chamber year with a presentation by our own Andy Cavalier and a proposal to attract more sports activities to town via improved athletic facilities. (Your Chamber had the honor of working with PISD Athletic Director Stuart Smith to attract several early round basketball playoff games this week.)

We followed that with a trip to town by the Harlem Ambassadors. Not only did they make inspiring visits to Wilson Elementary and Pampa Junior High, but our Mayor went one for one in the valiant effort by our own "Pampa Thrashers"!

And our trusted Administrative Assistant Shawna Hunt will be starting the year with a new baby – due any day now!

We've all made New Year's resolutions before, but it looks like to me that this will indeed be a Year of New Things! Betcha we have some businesses in town that will be bringing new services and products to market. I'm excited about 2007. How about you?

Now ... as to the recent snows, let's hope Punxsutawney Phil and daylight-saving time have it right, and early spring!

Pat Vanderpool  
Executive Director

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-22 CRYPTOQUOTE

EVLM MBZMGFNCGQ DHIER  
YKHD PQ EMNZW NCR PHICRW  
VL YKMMC JMYMFPNPEM,W  
WAMEEMR NW YHHR NW

PNGHC. — RHIY ENKWHC  
Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE IS LIKE AN ONION. YOU PEEL IT OFF ONE LAYER AT A TIME, AND SOMETIMES YOU WEEP. — CARL SANDBURG

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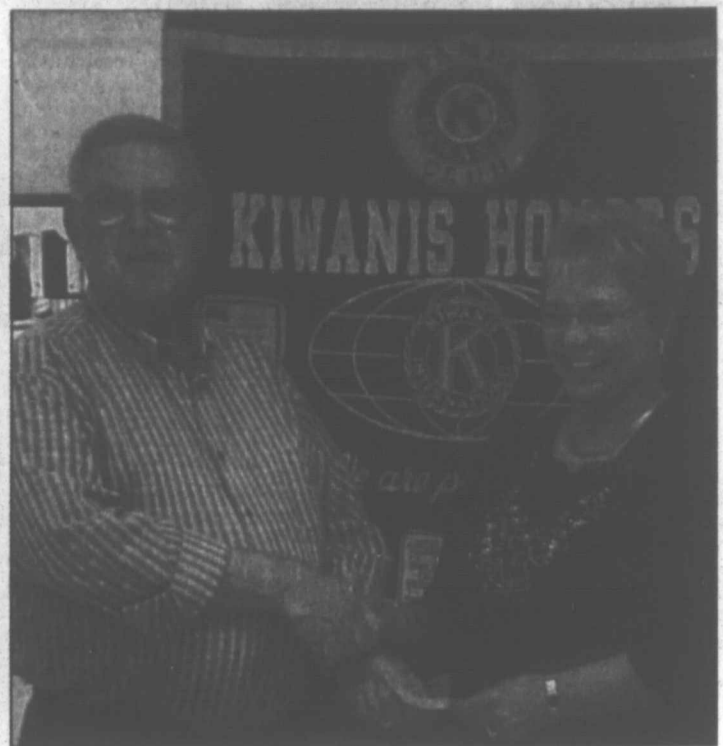
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## United Way



Denise Daves, local United Way president, recently presented a certificate of appreciation to representatives of Family Medicine Center for their contribution to the United Way. Pictured with Daves are Dr. Bobby Smith and Dr. Robert Julian.



COURTESY PHOTO  
Bill Kindle, president of Downtown Pampa Kiwanis Club, recently presented a check to Sharron Braddock of Genesis House. The Downtown Pampa Kiwanis sponsor many projects to benefit the community's youth. The Kiwanis International theme is "Children - Priority One."

## Events calendar

• **The Amarillo Museum of Art** will offer several classes and workshops for children, teens and adults starting in February and will host a visiting artist workshop series later in the spring. Classes/workshops will include Art Adventure, Drawing & Painting and Flower Power for children; Spring Break Camp for Teens; Focus on Clay, Copper Enameling, oil painting, acrylic painting for adults and more. Visiting artists will include Jakki Kouffman (Landscape Painting in Palo Duro Canyon); Connie Connally (Plein-Air into Abstraction); Chris Stanley (Potter Lost Potter Found); and James Watkins (Alternative Firing

Methods). For more information or to register, contact the museum at (806) 371-5050.

• **The deadline to enter the Miss Irish Rose Pageant** is Friday. The pageant will be held March 16-18 in Shamrock. The competition is open to teenage girls between the ages of 14-19 enrolled in high school. For more information, call the Shamrock Chamber of Commerce at (806) 256-2501 or phone (806) 334-0929, (806) 256-3503 or (806) 662-5405.

• **Amarillo College Lamplight Youth Theatre Co.** will present "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" in Ordway Hall on the Washington Street Amarillo campus at 7:30 p.m.

Friday; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday; and 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$8/seniors and \$5/children. Children 3 and under are not permitted in the theatre. For tickets, call (806) 371-5353.

• **A crock pot chili cook off** will be held Feb. 24 in the senior citizen's center in Lefors. The contest is free to all entries. Judging will be at 11:30 a.m. The event will include a salsa division, bake sale and raffles. A baked potato luncheon will follow the contest for a \$5 fee. For more information, call (806) 835-2915 or (806) 835-2438.

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